Ambassador's Speech on the Welcome Reception

Your Honorable Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius,

Your Excellency Mr. Jean Yvan Robert Hungley, Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius,

Your Honorable Mr. Paul Raymond Bérenger, Deputy Prime Minister,

Your Honorable Mrs Shirin Aumeeruddy-Cziffra, Speaker of the National Assembly,

Honourable Ministers and Members of the National Assembly,

Colleagues from the diplomatic corps,

Distinguished guests,

Dear friends, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. It is my great honor to be with you today. First of all, as the new Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Mauritius, let me extend heartfelt gratitude to the government and people of Mauritius for the hospitality and support that I received during my first days in your wonderful country.

Although I am still a newcomer, I am already overwhelmed by the beauty of the "Heaven on Earth," the kindness of its people, and its cultural diversity with the Chinese culture as one of the key elements. These wonderful experiences bring to my mind a line from classical Chinese poetry: "*True friends always feel close to each other, no matter the distance between them.* " Though separated by mountains and oceans, the hearts of our two peoples remain connected.

Ladies and gentlemen, Dear friends,

The longstanding friendship between China and Mauritius has many wonderful stories. Since the very beginning, we have been firmly

committed to the principles of equality and mutual respect. We uphold international justice and fairness, and support each other on issues concerning respective core interests and major concerns. China highly appreciates Mauritius' adherence to the One-China Policy, and fully supports Mauritius in safeguarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Our bilateral relations are also highlighted by the first overseas China Cultural Center, the first Free Trade Agreement between China and an African country and numerous pragmatic projects and programs. During last year's Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, a strategic partnership between us was established, with many new initiatives launched. Our central banks signed a currency swap agreement. Taking advantage of the FTA, Mauritian products like premium sugar, tropical fruits and aqua products will soon enjoy even wider access to the Chinese market. People-to-people exchanges are flourishing with over 12,000 incoming Chinese tourists in 2024, marking a 62% year-on-year increase, and hundreds of Mauritian professionals trained in various courses provided by the Chinese government yearly.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the new Chinese Ambassador, I am looking forward to opening new chapters for our friendship and cooperation with you. Many new wonderful stories await us ahead.

China is willing to be a faithful and honest partner of Mauritius, on our way in pursuit of national revitalization and common development of mankind. We highly appreciate Mauritius' efforts to improve livelihood of its people and strengthen resilience of its economy, and reaffirm our support for a free, open, and fair international economic and trading system.

We wish to further implement outcomes of the FOCAC Beijing Summit, so as to better align with Mauritius' development priorities, and we are looking forward to expanding our full-fledged collaboration with more emphasis on investment, finance, blue economy, green development

and digital infrastructure.

And we will be very glad to share even more opportunities with Mauritius, under the frameworks of the Belt and Road Initiative as well as the Global Development, Global Security, and Global Civilization Initiatives.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let's not forget that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the World Anti-Fascist War. 80 years have passed, while peace and tranquility is still a luxury for human beings. As members of the global south and peace-loving countries, China and Mauritius shoulder the common responsibility to safeguard basic norms of international relations and promote peace, stability and prosperity. Please be assured, China is always a trustworthy friend of Mauritius.

As the new Chinese ambassador, I wish to invite all of you to join me in this journey for a better future for China, for Mauritius and for our bilateral relations. Your guidance and support will be invaluable to me and my embassy.

Thank you for your attention. Last but not least, I wish you all good health and every success. Hope you enjoy this evening. Thank you!